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CHILE: Today is independence day, and the junta government plans to allow some quiet ceremonies to emphasize that the situation is returning to normal.

No new major assaults on military installations have been reported, and there are indications that the government feels it has the internal security situation under control.

Santiago remains generally calm. The junta forces continue to close the ring around extremists who have taken refuge in lower class housing areas on the outskirts of the city. A military operation against snipers in the La Legua industrial belt was begun on Sunday. Elsewhere in the country, the search for illegal arms caches is continuing but the military reportedly is encountering little resistance even in Concepcion, a center of ultraleftist strength.

The new minister of interior claims that at least 4,000 "suspects" are now being detained in Santiago alone. The government claims that a majority of the prisoners now being held are extremists who will be dealt with by military courts but adds that their legal rights will be respected.

The government is weeding out the previous regime's political appointees for state enterprises and other government jobs. The positions are now being filled by some active and retired military officers as well as by independent civilians, presumably with some technical qualifications. Several Christian Democrats reportedly have been brought into the government, including the minister of justice and three subsecretaries in other ministries. Christian Democratic leaders are faced with a dilemma, however, in their relations with the junta government. They hope to staff middle-level posts with their followers in an effort to moderate the government's policies, but they want to avoid being too closely identified with it. Party leaders reportedly fear political reprisals not only from extreme rightists being brought into the government but also from leftist extremists for cooperating with the new regime. Former President Frei is considering exile until the direction of the new government becomes clearer and the security situation stabilizes.

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AFGHANISTAN-USSR: Moscow apparently has reaffirmed its continuing economic and political support for Afghanistan.

President Daud's brother and foreign policy adviser, Naim Khan, returned from a four-day visit to the Soviet Union on 14 September. Although the trip apparently was arranged at the last moment, Naim met with both Brezhnev and Kosygin. It is still unclear who took the initiative for the trip, but the serious economic problems facing the new Afghan Government suggest that the visit was proposed by Kabul.

The Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister, who accompanied Naim, told the US charge on 15 September that the trip covered both political and economic issues and that the Russians were very "friendly, understanding, and helpful." According to the Afghan official, the discussions included "menacing Iranian activities in Baluchistan" as well as the trend of internal political developments in the two Pakistani provinces bordering Afghanistan.

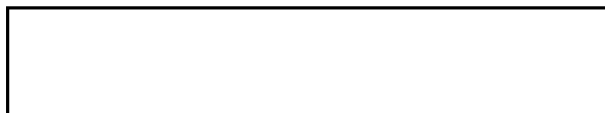
The official claimed the Soviets endorsed Afghan views on these problems, and he tried to give the impression that Moscow had assured Kabul of full support if the situation worsened. However, he also stressed that both parties agreed that the issues must be resolved by peaceful means. This would be in accord with previous evidence that the Russians, although continuing to back the Afghans, are seeking to prevent further instability from developing in this area along the southern flank of the USSR.

The Soviets also promised Naim substantially more economic assistance, according to the official. Details are to be negotiated when a large Afghan economic delegation goes to Moscow in the

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near future. Since 1954, the Soviet Union has been the primary source of foreign assistance to Afghanistan, extending over \$825 million in economic aid. A small Afghan negotiating team is currently in Moscow, but its mission reportedly is limited to attempting to work out a new pricing formula for Afghan natural gas exports to the USSR. [REDACTED]

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SWEDEN: Swedish radio, correcting an earlier tabulation error, announced late yesterday afternoon that unofficial returns from Sunday's election now place the three nonsocialist parties in a tie with Prime Minister Palme's Social Democrats and their Communist allies. The tally of absentee ballots, about 1 percent of the total vote, is not yet complete.

Although a tie would complicate Palme's effort to remain in power, he retains the initiative; the US Embassy in Stockholm believes he will almost certainly continue to govern. He can seek a coalition with either of two nonsocialist parties or, failing that, attempt to continue ruling with a minority government. He could also call new elections, though that would seem the least attractive alternative. In a TV interview yesterday, Palme refused to indicate what he will do until the final results are known, and that will be several days yet.

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Denmark: The quadrennial congress of the ruling Social Democratic Party began in Copenhagen on 16 September. The principal task of the congress is to plot a strategy that will enable the party to halt the erosion in support that has brought the Social Democrats to their lowest point in 40 years. In a new departure, the congress is expected to pledge the party to work within NATO for a European security system to supersede both NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

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**These items were prepared by CIA without consultation with the Departments of State and Defense.*

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